

## **Scienza under 18 isontina: a teachers association at the extreme northern corner of the Mediterranean**

Maria Teresa Gallo (1), Giulia Realdon (1,2), Giuliana Candussio (1), Sandra Fabris (1), Livia Bianchet (1), and Marinella Manià (1)

(1) Associazione Scienza under 18 Isontina, Fogliano-Redipuglia (Gorizia), Italy (gallo.mate56@gmail.com), (2) UNICAMearth group - University of Camerino – Geology Section, Italy

How we are born: history of the group and of the project

Scienza under 18 Isontina originated from a group of teachers working in a national science education project (from kindergarten to high school) run by the Italian Ministry of Education (2006-2013).

In 2009 we started the first science school festival open to different school grades.

In 2010 we established the association Scienza under 18 Isontina aimed at promoting science communication for the schools of our province and outside schools for citizens and other stakeholders interested in science education.

Who we are

We are a group of teachers and principals working with students aged 3-19 years and with their teachers. We are part of the National Scienza under 18 Association.

We live and work in Monfalcone and in the nearby towns of the province of Gorizia. Monfalcone, in particular, is situated in the extreme northern corner of the Mediterranean.

This town's coastal area is characterized by different business linked to the sea (a world known shipyard – Fincantieri - an important harbour, a power plant and a number of marinas), but also by coastal protected areas.

Since 2010 we have built a science communication network involving local authorities (municipalities, province), institutions (universities), other NGOs and private companies.

What we do

[U+F0B7] Every year we run a festival at the end of the school year (in May): in the festival students showcase their science projects in a fair or through on-stage performances. In addition, Scienza under 18 Isontina organizes exhibitions about science related topics, practical labs and workshops for classes, maths games and theatrical performances.

[U+F0B7] During the school year we organize “special events”:

- o M'illumino di Meno (a one-day national initiative on energy saving)
- o Pi Day (maths games for students and teacher training in the international Pi Day)
- o Sustainability Week (promoted by UNESCO)
- o Science Cafè (informal science happenings run by high school students)

[U+F0B7] We provide teacher training: in-service professional development courses, pre-service teacher placements.

[U+F0B7] We perform practical labs and science drama activities (“Scienza under 18 Take Away”) in schools and public libraries on science related topics.

A special focus on the environment

Given our location, we pay special attention to sea-related issues, both on the side of science education and of environmental education.

In the last years we developed original activities on plastics and micro-plastics in marine environment, published in the European journal Science in school and presented in Italian and European teacher conferences.

We also produced practical labs and drama activities on WEEE (Waste of Electric and Electronic Equipment) environment related problems for different student ages.

Inspired by EXPO 2015, we address sustainable nutrition through conferences and school exhibits.

We also run fieldwork activities in coastal wetlands of our area and celebrate World Oceans Day by means of water analyses and investigations on the beach.